

Bartolomeo Vinassa House

HABS No. CA-2386

River Street Historic District
339/341 West Saint John Street
San Jose
Santa Clara County
California

HABS
CAL
43-SANJOS,
27-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HABSCAL
43-SANJOS
27-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Bartolomeo Vinassa House

HABS No. CA-2386

Location: 339/341 West St. John Street, River Street Historic District
San Jose, California
UTM Coordinates: 10-597685-4132410

Significance: The Bartolomeo Vinassa House, due to its architectural integrity and contribution to the urban fabric, forms an integral part of the River Street Historic District, a rare intact late nineteenth and early twentieth century working class neighborhood in San Jose.

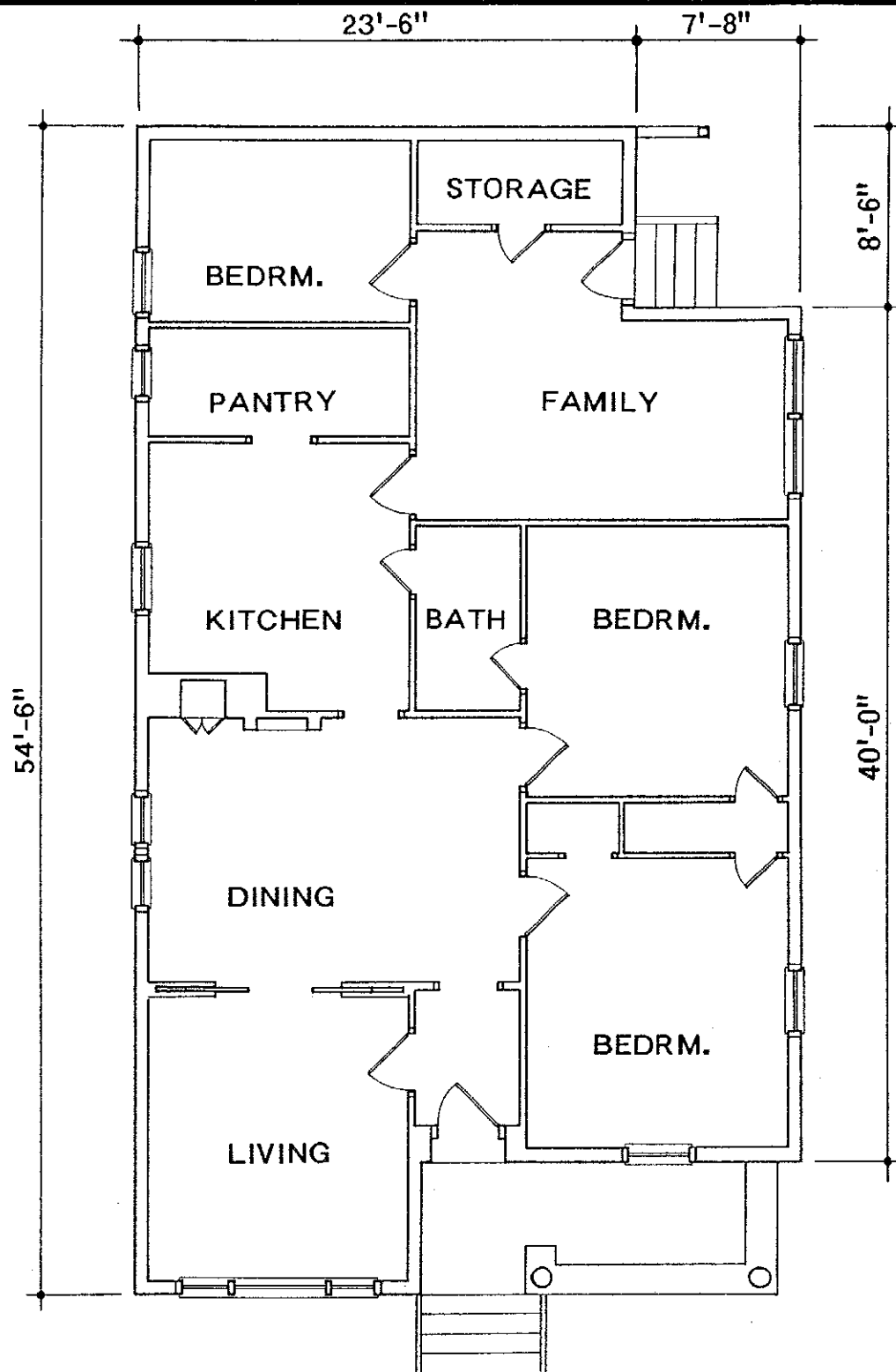
Description: The Bartolomeo Vinassa House, a small residence, is a one-story wood framed structure with intersecting gable roof forms. The front elevation includes a half porch supported by turned posts. The front facing end gable is detailed with a broken pediment with decorative cornice brackets. These corner brackets also extend to the cornice above the porch and the broken pediment in the side gable end. It is clad in V-groove rustic siding with quoins. A short front hall accesses the living room to the west and the dining room to the north. Two bedrooms align the east wall, the kitchen along the west wall, and a bathroom sits between. Stylistically, this structure is a rare one-story Italianate cottage, unusual for this area.

History: This house, as well as the identical one at number 347, is intriguing from both an architectural and historical perspective. This parcel is shown vacant in the 1915 Sanborn map and there are no listings for this address in the 1920s. Bartolomeo Vinassa, the proprietor of the Torino Hotel, is listed as the owner in 1924. Residents appear at number 347 starting in 1923. This building is presently numbered 341.

The question remains whether the buildings were relocated to or built on the site. Most likely, the buildings were built elsewhere and moved to this in the early 1920s. Stylistically, both buildings appear to predate 1920, dating perhaps to the late nineteenth century. The possibility exists, however, that Vinassa simply had these cottages built in the Italianate style in the 1920s.

Sources: California Historic Resources Inventory Form, prepared by
Stephen D. Mikesell, 1988.
San Jose City Directories.
San Jose 1924 Block Map.

Historian: Hardlines: Design & Delineation
Columbus, Ohio & Bethesda, Maryland
July - October, 1993



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1' - 0"